

# Annual Meeting for Parishioners Wed 28 May 2025 @ 7.30pm

Meeting was opened at 7.30pm

Apologies received: No apologies were received

3 members of the public present

**Minutes of Meeting 29 May 2024** – Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting for Parishioners was read out, corrections noted and approved.

**Chair's Annual Report** Cllr Powell reported it's been another frustrating year for the Parish Council as far as Somerset Council are concerned (with the noted exception of Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley who have been extraordinarily supportive and helpful). The Unitary Authority (Somerset County) which came into being 1 April 2023 has still not communicated with the parish councils about what services will or will not be devolved. This is making it very difficult for us to set our yearly budget for the second year running. They still have not produced any guidance for the parish councils outlining exactly what services are going to be withdrawn nor provided any guidance on how to anticipate what our financial responsibilities would be before having to set our precept for the 2025-26 financial year. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to keep our precept at the same amount as for the previous 2024-25 financial year. Over the past several months, the village has had to endure several road closures, many on short notice, which has severely impacted the local residents' ability to get out of the village and to access vital services in Dunster and Minehead. The multitude of road closures has caused severe disruptions to local businesses, farmers and residents alike. The Chairman stated that he and Cllr Bolland did an assessment of the hedge cut made last year by the highways department and determined where the one cut was made was worse than if no cut had been made. He said he thought we might need to consider paying a private contractor to do a second cut this year. On a more positive note, Cllr Bolland has done a great job, once again, liaising with our SC Highway contact and advocating for us. The Chair also thanked Cllr Bolland for attending the LCN meetings all year as our representative. This year we are adding a Bleed Kit to our first aid supplies, and it will be positioned outside the village hall next to the defibrillator. Additionally, the Parish Council will install a new notice board in the village hall carpark to replace the one that perished last year. There was another successful litter pickup by village volunteers this year so a big thank you to them. He also thanked all our councillors for their support, and to Somerset Council councillors, Steven and Frances, for making every effort to attend our meetings and to Mary for all her hard work as Clerk.

**Clerk's Financial Report** - The bank balance stood at £4154.56 at 28 March 2025. Year ended with balance of £3884.32. Precept for 2024/25: £4859.00. Receipts of £6628.70 (£4859.00 + £1769.70 brought forward) with payments of £2744.38. Parish finances healthy.

Meeting closed 7.45pm